

ABSTRACT OF DISCLOSURE

An electrophotographic image forming apparatus and method. The apparatus has a laser scanning unit to generate a laser beam, a photosensitive medium to receive the laser beam and form an electrostatic latent image, a developing roller to attach toner to a surface of the photosensitive medium, a transfer roller to transfer the developed image onto a paper sheet, a charge roller to charge the surface of the photosensitive medium to have a predetermined voltage, a power supply to supply electric power to the transfer roller and the charge roller, a transfer roller resistance detecting unit to detect a resistance of the charge roller, an actual surrounding condition detecting unit to detect an actual surrounding condition of the charge roller, and a controller to detect a surrounding condition from the resistance of the charge roller, compare the detected surrounding condition with the actual surrounding condition, and generate a transfer roller exchange signal if the two surrounding conditions differ.